

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 858
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Athan Gibbs, Sr. for his creation and development of the TruVote Voter Validation System.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize inimitable public servants that have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens by promoting respect and appreciation for the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Athan Gibbs, Sr. is one such estimable individual who has served this great State and Nation with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented commitment, and whose professionalism and competence will serve as a benchmark for future Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, realizing the conspicuous disadvantages of the current voting system as exemplified in the Presidential election of 2000, Mr. Gibbs designed and invented the TruVote Voter Validation System which is championed by TruVote International, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, federally certified, the TruVote System is a revolutionary voting system with the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), a tangible receipt of proof for each vote cast; the System ensures anonymity and confidentiality while also assuring the voter that his or her vote has been recorded; and

WHEREAS, the VVPAT of TruVote provides voters with a computer generated receipt and allows the correction of any errors before leaving the voting machine; after the vote is cast, each individual is issued a Voter Validation Number and Personal Identification Number which can be used to verify the vote at a state Internet web address; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gibbs has diligently promoted his progressive idea and product throughout the Nation to Secretaries of State, County Election Officials, State Legislatures including the Tennessee Legislative Black Caucus, Members of Congress, Election Reform

Groups, Civic Rights Groups, Civic Organizations, ADA Groups, Potential Business Partners, and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the concept and methodology of the VVPAT, pioneered by Mr. Gibbs, has become a household name within the election industry and several states including California, New York, and Illinois, now require that all voting machines sold in their states must produce such an audit trail; additionally legislation has been proposed in the United States Congress to require all touch screen voting machines to provide a voter receipt; and

WHEREAS, seeing great potential in the TruVote System, Winston Smith, Director of Supplier Diversity for Microsoft, Corp. helped TruVote International form a partnership with Microsoft which has led to the "most robust use of Microsoft technology among electronic voting machines on the market."; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his laudable accomplishments with TruVote International, Mr. Gibbs is an astute Accountant with over twenty-nine years of accounting and audit experience as a Corporate Tax Auditor, Financial Analyst, and Expert Witness on regulatory accounting, cost of capital, federal taxation, and other evidential accounting matters; and

WHEREAS, a Shelby County native, Athan Gibbs was born in 1946 to George and Cleora Gibbs, and he was the second of eight children; and

WHEREAS, a 1970 graduate of Tennessee State University, Mr. Gibbs received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree and then continued in his pursuit of knowledge at American Baptist College where he obtained his Bachelor of Theology degree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gibbs has developed a keen business sense and has wisely utilized his skills in several positions with the State of Tennessee, as a Consultant to the United States Department of Commerce, with the Minority Business Development Center in Nashville, and as the Owner and Operator of INCO Accounting and Tax Service of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as an Auditor, Mr. Gibbs has written hundreds of audit programs, as well as having conducted and supervised hundreds of audits of corporate taxpayers and public utilities and he employed this auditing experience in the creation of the VVPAT and TruVote System; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Gibbs serves as the Associate Minister at Pilgrim Emmanuel Baptist Church and attests that the revelation of the TruVote System was by divine inspiration; and

WHEREAS, his many outstanding accomplishments aside, Mr. Gibbs is most grateful for the loving companionship he shares with his wife of more than three decades, Dorothy Brown Gibbs, a Metro Nashville School Teacher; they are the proud parents of three children; and

WHEREAS, Athan Gibbs, Sr. is a distinguished public servant who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his remarkable talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gibbs is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Athan Gibbs, Sr. for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, salute his dedication to the democratic process in the creation and development of the TruVote Voter Validation System, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.